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McManus Resolution Seeks to Temporarily Replace Legislators Called to Military Duty

Constitutional Amendment Necessary for Legislation's Passage

(LANSING) – With the possibility of war looming on the horizon, state Senator Michelle McManus has introduced legislation that ensures those in serving in the legislature will be properly replaced if called to active military duty.

“The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that each district maintains its proper and rightful representation in the legislature while its elected official have been called to serve their country in times of great national need,” McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, said.

Senate Joint Resolution B seeks to create a constitutional amendment to provide for a procedure for replacing a sitting legislator who has been called to active military duty. The resolution requires the governor to appoint, under certain guidelines, a temporary replacement for a legislator called to active duty who will serve until the legislator's military obligation is complete.

The guidelines for the governor to replace a sitting legislator include the following:

- That the replacement is from the district to be represented,
- That the replacement is of the same party as the legislator called to active duty,
- That the replacement is nominated by the legislator called to active duty, and
- That the replacement is nominated by the local political party.

If a legislator replaced under SJR B remains unavailable to return to the legislature as a result of military service by the time of the next regularly scheduled election, SJR B provides that the temporary replacement may run for the seat as ordinarily described by the Michigan Constitution and law.

Senate Joint Resolution B has been referred to the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.